

other duties to perform, to have supervision over them. Some had been resorts for smugglers; others had been frequented by camping parties who destroyed the timber. The officer had prevented this. It was not the intention of the Government to sell those islands which were ornamental, although several parties had sought to purchase them for summer residences. The Government thought it much better to keep those islands in their natural state and leave them open to all who observed the regulations for the preservation of lumber and natural appearance of the islands. The returns would be brought down.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—I believe these islands are the property of the Indians.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Nearly all.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said in that case the hon. gentleman was right in saying the best price should be obtained for them. The object was, while it was exceedingly desirable that the beauty of these islands should be maintained as one of the most striking pieces of scenery in the world, that the interests of the Indians must be guarded. It seemed to him a judicious system to grant leases to persons of means who desired to occupy them as summer residences, making it strictly necessary they should preserve the lumber and erect such buildings as would increase the beauty of the scenery.

He was very glad to hear from his hon. friend that it was intended to take this action. The money would be well spent, and he presumed that the expense was chargeable to the Indian fund. These islands undoubtedly should be protected. On the American side there were beautiful residences. He did not know what means were taken on the other side of the dividing line to protect the islands, but it was lamentable to see some points which were formerly beautiful, utterly ruined by the wreckless barbarism of excursionists who lighted fires that had destroyed and ruined them.

Mr. JONES (Leeds) agreed that means should be taken to protect the smaller islands, and if possible derive a revenue from them. What they complained of was the mode of appraisal.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.

Some of these parties living in these islands had surveyed their own property at the request of the late Government. After they had gone to the expense of having their farms mapped out, a new survey had been made, showing a difference of from 40 to 60 acres. With regard to the appraisal, he stated that adjoining some valuable farms which had been appraised at \$1 and \$2 an acre, there were farms not so good as those rated at this low figure which had been appraised at \$5, \$6 and even \$7. There was great discontent in consequence. In some cases the settlers had been located on their farms for 80 years, the property having been handed down from father to son. The men who lived on these islands were under great disadvantages compared with those on the mainland. They had no schools and no roads, but they had to pay their municipal taxes, and their claims should be well considered. He thought the Government might realize a high price by the renting of the islands. He trusted the Government would bring down the papers asked for.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said with regard to the papers he could not promise to bring down private correspondence regarding the appraisal of land. Some of these papers were confidential and would not be brought down in the usual course, but any papers that were not so regarded the Government would have no objection to produce. With regard to the Indian lands it had been the custom of the Government for many years never to sell them without the consent of the Indians themselves. It was only when the Indians agreed that the Government either leased or sold Indian lands. It was a great mistake to imagine that Indians were not capable of looking after their own affairs, for they showed a great deal of astuteness in a way. The Government always consulted them in respect to the sale or leasing of their property, and were very particular not to act against their will. He would bring down those papers which were not of a confidential character, and he hoped his hon. friend would be satisfied with that.

The motion was carried.